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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FWS ISSUES FISHERY OUTLOOK REPORT FOR APRIL-JUNE

Markets for edible fishery products during the second quarter of 1951 will be fairly firm because of heavy consumption but with some weaknesses attributable to the post-Lenten lull and heavy cold storage stocks, according to the quarterly outlook report released today by the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior.

The report indicates that business activity will continue at a high level, with heavy consumer purchasing. It forecasts that markets for fishliver oils will be weak, fish oil will be fairly firm, and fish meal will be fairly steady. The production of fishery products will increase steadily and be near peak level at the close of the quarter. Cold-storage stocks, although remaining heavy, will decline to their annual minimum in the middle of the quarter. The building up of storage stocks in the latter part of the quarter may not be as rapid in 1951 as in 1950. Exports of fishery products are expected to continue at a relatively low level while import volume will be heavy.

The extension of Government controls will be one of the major influences in fishery markets during this second quarter. The extent and efficacy of these controls, however, cannot be forecast.

Ninth in the series, the forecast was prepared by Ralph Russell, economist of the Service's Branch of Commercial Fisheries. It is based on data collected from a wide variety of sources—representing facts and opinions from authorities in the fishery industry and Government agencies. Material on individual species and products is arranged according to the classifications of salt-water fish, shellfish, fresh-water fish, and byproducts. The entire report covers more than 50 commodities and is illustrated with some 30 charts.

Copies of the quarterly Outlook for Marketing Fishery Products, April-June 1951, Fishery Leaflet 336h, can be obtained from the Division of Information, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington 25, D. C.

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